

Thank you to all who responded to our plea for help last month. We have completed the repair of the cracks in the Refectory and hope to address a serious crack in the bell tower and in the Sacristy as soon as we have the necessary resources. We do rely upon and greatly appreciate your generosity. May God bless you for your continued support.



Brother Joseph cleaning the cuts in the walls which will be reinforced with metal spiral cable to repair the severely cracked walls in the Seminary Refectory.



Brother Francis mortars the reinforcing cables inserted in the cuts in the walls.



The Northeast corner "held together."



A view of the Seminary's Refectory during the two week holiday with the repairs of the walls under way.



The east wall of the Refectory with cracks and cuts repaired.

EVENTS:

- Bishop Bernard Fellay will confer the Minor Orders, tonsure & receiving of cassock on 15 August 2009.
- Family & Vocations Weekend: September 12 to 13. Weekend activities include: Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and conference on Music and Education (Saturday), Procession of the True Cross, Soccer Tournament (Sunday). More details to follow next month.
- Bishop Bernard Tissier de Mallerais will confer the Priestly Ordinations on 19 December 2009.
- Ignatian Exercises:
 - Men's Retreat: 4 to 9 January 2010
 - Ladies' Retreat: 18 to 23 January 2010



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a ligno Deus

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY
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July 2009

No. 68

J.M.J.
July 2, 2009

Rev. Vicente A. Griego
Rector

...in the last days, shall come dangerous times. Men shall be lovers of themselves, covetous, haughty, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, wicked, without affection, without peace, slanderers, incontinent, unmerciful, without kindness, traitors, stubborn, puffed up, and lovers of pleasures more than of God: having an appearance of godliness, but denying the power thereof. Now these avoid. (II Tim 3:1-5)

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

As we fight the daily battle of Christian warfare "in these dangerous times," we often grow weary by the unrelenting attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil. Because of the life-long duration of the effort, there is a risk of succumbing to a type of "trench warfare" where we stop advancing and "dig in," a stagnant war front, content with holding off the enemy, wishing for reinforcements, but no longer sallying forth.

With no advance, the continued battles seem meaningless, casualties multiply, the dreadful fear of no end to the conflict looms heavily: soldiers, morale, the ideal and even the very terrain succumb. It would be a victory of the enemy were such stagnation to occur in the spiritual combat. Christian warfare, for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, cannot be sustained simply in the defence mode. There must be an offensive. In trench warfare, there may be a momentary pause as reinforcements are expected, but the time comes to go over the top in an offensive move.

The reinforcements are, of course, the grace of God, brought to us by Our King and Saviour, Who Himself has already conquered the enemy. We need merely to follow Him and cooperate in His victory. An example of the ideal of the Christian combatant can be



Jacques Daret's Visitation

found in the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Visitation, in a summary of the life of Christ, and in Mary's perfection in filial and heroic submission to God.

Our Lady perfectly cooperated with God's grace and grew in holiness. She received Christ and then endeavoured to share Him with all men. The artistic rendition of Jacques Daret's *Visitation* may not at first glance depict the imagery of trench warfare alluded to above, the "blood and guts" of worldly combat; however, the reality of Our Lady's Visitation contains all the elements of genuine warfare: great courage and blood (Christ's Sacrifice and man's sacrificial cooperation).

Our Lady carries the Redeemer and Saviour of mankind to the house of Zachary (the Old Testament warriors hoping for the Redeemer). These combatants, oppressed by the enemy, receive the hoped-for Reinforcement, Christ Our Lord. St. John is sanctified, and the voice of one crying in the wilderness will do penance, pray and present Christ to the world of sinners recruiting for the spiritual battle: *Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who taketh away the sin of the world* (Jn 1:29). St. John the Baptist says points out He Who is destined to offer His Blood for the Redemption of men; behold the Saviour of the world. Go, follow Him, to the heights of Calvary.

The life of fidelity and sacrifice in following Christ is a battle. Many in the world scoff at the allusion of the Christian life being difficult, because they are too weak and fearful to live it. The love of God is our strength, but how few there are to seek this empowering and encouraging sacrificial love. Following in Christ's footsteps is a combat.

Heaven and Hell clash in the "trench" known as the Valley of Tears. Forbidden entry to the Kingdom of Our Lord by the stain of our betrayal, fallen man must fight to re-gain honour and enjoy the peace of eternal happiness. The difficulty, the estrangement from Our Heavenly home draws tears, but Christ is among us, brought to us by Our Lady: *whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?* (Lk 1:43)

The Messias, who comes to us through the hands of our priests, is necessary Reinforcement for the armies of God. The Catholic priest, like the Word in the Incarnation, like the Mother of God in the Visitation, makes Christ present in our souls, on our altars, in our confessionals, at our weddings and on our deathbeds. Christ's priests and the reinforcements all men need in order to make the offensive in spiritual combat. Consequently, priests must be filled with God's grace and zeal for the sinner fighting in the trenches, and even those who have abandoned the line, encouraging all to rally to the King!

It is a wonderful privilege to be called to the Priesthood of Christ, to possess the power of Christ; however, to live faithfully to the vocation, a man must know and love Christ. Consequently, he must spend the greater part of his life studying Christ in the school of prayer and living this prayer in the sacrifice of his attachment to the world for the inheritance of heaven: *The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and of my cup: it is thou that wilt restore my inheritance to me* (Ps 15:5). This solidifies the desire for heaven and the means to get there. If not, the priest may simply settle into the trench with the fatigued soldiers. The defence drearily drags on...

There cannot be only a defence, there must be an offence. "Over the top!" This means courageously following Christ, Who has already gone over the top. "But I'll die!" we fearfully cry. Yes, we will die, just as Our Lord has died: *For he that will save his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for my sake, shall find it* (Mt 16:25). A soldier is useless if he cannot follow his leader. We must be willing to sacrifice all for the purposes of advancing; otherwise, we cease to advance. If the Christian ceases to fight the good fight, he loses.

God's enemies cannot win. When the situation seems lost and most dark, we recall the scene of Christ on Calvary... was there ever a moment more dark than that of the Innocent Christ shamefully suspended upon the

Cross? Yet, this was precisely the great moment of victory, when Christ led the charge, "over the top!"

"...being the propitiation for the crimes of the whole world, it is not until His death on the gibbet that He pays off the universal debt. This death has won for us everlasting life. Jesus Christ slays and destroys sin at the very moment when death strikes Him. He, the innocent One is the victim of all the sins of men." (*Christ the Life of the Soul*, Dom Marmion, p. 159)

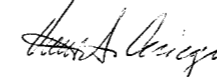
Understanding Christ's lesson, Archbishop Lefebvre desired to take Christ to all parts of the world, to all men. To accomplish this demanded sacrifice. The Archbishop did not sit idle when the novelty of a new strategy in warfare was suggested; namely: compromises with the world and the principles of liberalism, ecumenism, modernism and indifferentism. Archbishop Lefebvre, true to his Priestly Ordination and Episcopal Consecration, continued to fight vigorously on the offensive to preserve and advance Catholic Tradition, which brings Christ to the weary combatant.

Faithful to Christ's mission entrusted to the Catholic Church alone, every priest of Christ must endeavour to take Christ to all parts of the world, to uphold doctrine, to give the Sacraments, to strengthen the weak and to reform the sinner as Christ commanded. Fidelity to Catholic Tradition has been the very principle of action for the Society of St. Pius X since its beginning, not because of a personal preference, not because of a romantic mysticism, not for a prideful idealism... But rather, to remain faithful to Christ's mission, to the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to the unanimous teaching of the Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

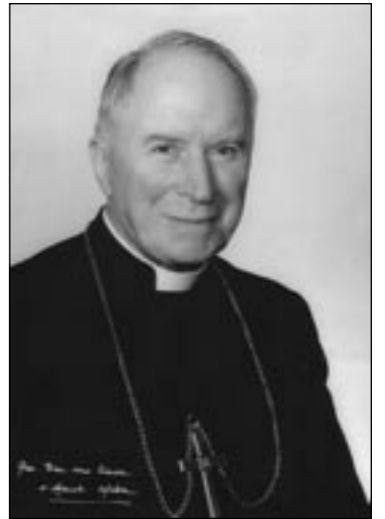
Dear Friends and Benefactors of Holy Cross Seminary, please thank God for the twenty-four priests recently ordained in Society's Seminaries in the Northern hemisphere (the United States, Germany and Switzerland). On August 15th of this year, seminarians from Holy Cross will be receiving the Minor Orders and on December 19th we plan to ordain two more priests to reinforce the front lines of the spiritual combat. We need more recruits. Pray for many more holy priestly vocations. The enemies of Christ do not want young priests ordained, men who know what the Catholic Priesthood is about and how the priest must live. The world, the flesh and devil unceasingly destroy vocations. All faithful Christians are obliged to counter attack. Over the top, my dear friends: pray, make sacrifices and live virtuously the life of Christ.

May Our Lord, in this month dedicated to His Most Precious Blood, bless us with many, holy priestly vocations and may the Mother of the Eternal High Priest watch over and guide them to the fulfilment of their duties: to adore God, to strive for holiness, to sanctify and save many souls. This is the great blessing we wish to you, dear friends and benefactors, that our Seminaries send you many, holy priests, who are real men of God and who lead us to the eternal joys of God's company.

In Christ the King,



Rev. Fr. Vicente A. Griego
Rector, Holy Cross Seminary



Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre